

Dear Mr. Powell:

I appreciate your consideration of my 11th-hour appeal with regard to the important decision you and your commission will be making tomorrow with regard to permitting increased consolidation of media outlets in the hands of fewer individuals owners and corporations.

To my mind changing the existing rules would permit the control of a locale's media to rest in fewer hands. This would work against the free range and expression of social, political and economic views that enable democratic Americans to better understand, debate and vote on the issues that underlay the fabric of our nation.

I would urge you and fellow commissioners to set aside your partisan allegiances and vote instead, using the commonweal as your fundamental and moral compass. The openness of our society is under terrible stress; the credulity of national leaders and politicians with regard to their commitment to a free press and electronic media is being questioned by many average, but educated, thinking citizens.

The reassurance a decision tomorrow, by the FCC, not to change the existing rules being debated under Docket item 02-077 would be greeted with a surge of hope and optimism, and a huge breath of relief by all of us who place our hopes in the strong future the continued freedom of diverse views the unconcentrated ownership of the press and other media assures. Thank you and your fellow commissioners for what I hope will be a strong and positive consideration of my request, made here.

Yours truly,
Thomas J. Gergel,
Ordinary citizen